

# Fire protection made in Kappeln

Community fire commissioner Dirk Schadewaldt demonstrates firefighting near Mount Kilimanjaro together with the Tanzanian fire department

Von Rebecca Nordmann

**KAPPELN/NGARUMA** One week ago, Sabine and Matthias Mau left for East Africa again. For more than ten years, the Kappelners have been supporting a Christian vocational school and two kindergartens in Ngaruma, Tanzania. Over the years, the partnership of the protestant parish Kappeln and the protestant congregation Ngaruma, supporting organization of the school, grew. And while Kappeln's former pastor Karsten Petersen was a member of the travel group a year ago, Dirk Schadewaldt has joined this year. As the owner of Elektrohaus Mehlby, Schadewaldt has repeatedly sent materials to Tanzania in the past, donations that are an integral part of instruction at the vocational school. Because Schadewaldt is not only a master electrician, but incidentally also Kappeln's community fire commissioner, the topic of fire brigade was on top of the list during the current visit.

A distance of about 40 kilometers lies between the vocational school in Ngaruma and the nearby city of Moshi, where nearly 200000 inhabitants live. And that's where the next and only fire truck stands. At the suggestion of Matthias Mau, fire chief Marshal Jeremiah Laurian Mkomagi set off for Ngaruma for a day – to do two things at once, which Dirk Schadewaldt describes as follows: „Perhaps we can offer the students a professional perspective here. The fire department in Tanzania likes to welcome young people who have completed vocational training.“ In addition – and even more important locally – it's about their own protection against fire. „It's about raising the awareness of safety among students and teachers“, says Schadewaldt.

How can potential sources of danger be contained and what is the right behavior in case of

fire? This included demonstrating the handling of a fire extinguisher to the students and also a few interested neighbors. Matthias Mau says: „Everything is missing here. Now the school has three new fire extinguishers, two exist-

ting ones are recharged.“ And aware of the knowledge of this year's travel companion Mau also says: „Dirk Schadewaldt is already working on an evacuation plan.“

Meanwhile, the community fire commissioner himself has



The nearest – and only – fire truck is stationed about 40 kilometers from the school.

FOTOS: MATTHIAS MAU



**Working and in hand:** Kappelns community fire commissioner Dirk Schadewaldt (left) and Moshis fire chief Marshal Jeremiah Laurian Mkomagi.



**This is how it works:** With the help of the professionals from Kappeln and Tanzania, the students of the Ngaruma vocational school learn how to operate a fire extinguisher.

received a first, very immediate impression of life and work at the vocational school in Ngaruma. Of the daily challenges, the great commitment of the school management and teachers, the great appreciation of the Kappelner and

Tanzanians towards one another. Dirk Schadewaldt says: „There is so much to do here, fire safety education is only part of it. But at some point we want to repeat that.“ He also wants to take care of the financing.